

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5263

USIAC

USIA FOR IAA DAWSON

STATE FOR AF/W TOM SMITH

U.S. GENEVA PASS AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S STATE VISIT - MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY: USIS HAS RECEIVED SOME PRELIMINARY FEELERS FROM MEDIA FOR USIA ASSISTANCE IN COVERING PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S SEPTEMBER VISIT. EXPECT REQUESTS TO INCREASE AFTER OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. POST SEEKS ADVISE WHAT ASSISTANCE AGENCY MIGHT PROVIDE LIBERIAN MEDIA AND POST DURING VISIT.

1. ELBC RADIO HAS QUERRIED WHETHER IT COULD SEND DAILY VOICE REPORTS FROM VOA WASHINGTON STUDIOS VIA SIDEBAND CIRCUIT TO RECEIVER STATION BREWERVILLE FOR RELAY USIS DOWNTOWN TO PASS ELBC. THIS WOULD INCLUDE PHONE REPORTS TO DC STUDIOS FROM OUTSIDE WASHINGTON AT ELBC EXPENSE. PAO TOLD ELBC REP SIDEBAND USAGE ALREADY HEAVY FOR SENDING SCHEDULES, ETC, IN NORMAL VOA OPERATION, BUT THAT WE WOULD INVESTIGATE. VOA RELAY STATION MANAGER CONFIRMS HEAVY USAGE SIDEBAND CIRCUIT. POST FEELS IF VOA COULD PROVIDE SOME TIME DAILY TO FEED ELBC REPORTS, DIVIDENDS OF GOODWILL FOR VOA MONROVIA WOULD BE WORTH WHATEVER THE

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EFFORT. PLEASE ADVISE.

2. LIBERIA IN JUNE DEDICATED SATELLITE GROUND STATION WITH CAPACITY RECEIVE TV SIGNALS FROM U.S. AND EUROPE, BUT LIBERIA'S ONLY TV STATION HAS NO COMPETENT LINK-UP WITH GROUND STATION AND BROADCASTS ONLY ON EUROPEAN STANDARD WITH NO CONVERTER FOR U.S. SYSTEM. STATION HAS BEEN EXPERIMENTING PAST WEEK IN EFFORT TELECAST OLYMPIC GAMES COMING VIA EUROPE. ALTHOUGH YET UNSUCCESSFUL, EXPERIMENTS ARE OBVIOUS EFFORT TRY PERFECT SOMETHING FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT. POST REQUESTS AGENCY DETERMINE COST SATELLITE RELAY MONROVIA FROM WASHINGTON VIA ITALY, PLUS COSTS FILM OR VTR COVERAGE WHITE HOUSE CEREMONIES, OTHER EVENTS.

3. JOHN MEEK, PRESIDENT EDELMAN INTERNATIONAL CORP, 1730 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WAS HERE RECENTLY IN APPARENT EFFORT SELL GOL PACKAGE TO HANDLE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN STATES. HIGH GOL OFFICIAL INFORMED PAO MEEK'S COMPANY NO LONGER ON FULL-TIME PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT FOR GOL, BUT WILL SERVE IN ADVISORY, CONSULTING CAPACITY FOR VISIT. MEEK PRESSURED PAO FOR AGENCY TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTARY FILM OF VISIT, AND THOUGH DISABUSED OF IDEA POST OR USIA READY UNDERWRITE DOLLARS 25,000-30,000 FOR HIS PROJECT. HE WILL APPROACH AGENCY (IAA FENHAGEN OR JONES, OR IMV) AND DEPARTMENT TO PROMOTE USG PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTARY. SINCE THIS ONLY AFRICAN HEAD OF STATE VISIT FOR BICENTENNIAL, ARE THERE ANY PLANS WASHINGTON FOR MAKING FILMED STORY OF VISIT?

4. POST REQUESTS ANY OTHER ADVISE, COST FIGURES AGENCY COULD PROVIDE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS GOL AND MEDIA FOR COVERAGE VISIT. MAGEE

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